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NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE GREEN

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New England village green.



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A NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE GREEN

Elliott B. Bronson
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ALL of us, without doubt, during our automobile or driving trips over the country side of New England, have noted with pleasure, "The Village Green." Located in the various hamlets of Massachusetts and Connecticut, you find them bordered and shaded by stately trees, and intersected by winding paths. A white church of interesting appearance invariably faces it, or is located within its boundaries. Old Colonial homes with their air of mystery, and perchance a tavern, cluster around about it, adding dignity, as well as beauty to its appearance.

Some of us, who have a touch of the historic in our natures, begin at once to wonder and to dream of the glory of its bygone days, as we pause beneath the inviting shade of its stately elms.

Feeling this fever coursing through my veins to a high degree, I have been delving this past year in the mysteries and traditions of "The Green" at Winchester. The existence of such a plot, invariably resulted from one of two causes. Either it was "set off" for the site of a "Meeting House," or, was devoted to the location of a "parade" ground for "General Training," where the Militia company of the town met in spring and fall, to perfect itself in wonderful evolutions, and be the "admired of all admirers."

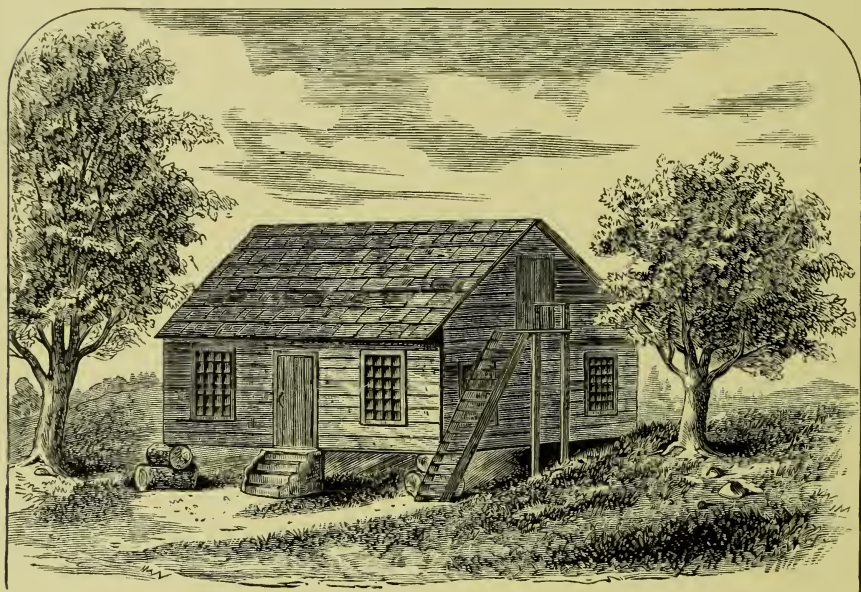
The first Ecclesiastical Society of Winchester, was formed by the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut at its May session in 1768.

A number of families had been located for a few years previous, in various parts of the township. Church services, were voted to be held at the house of John Hills (located on the "Country road," near the present Hurlbut Cemetery) until December of that year. The following year 1769, a small, low, steep roofed building was erected for a church. "It was thirty feet long and twenty-four feet wide, with nine feet posts, and covered with wide rabbeted boards one inch thick. A huge chestnut butt, set up perpendicu-

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larly at the front door, with a series of steps cut crosswise of the timber, gave access to the ground floor. Opposite the door was a rostrum or pulpit three to four feet high. The seats were rough planks or slabs, with legs at the ends inserted in auger holes." The gallery was formed by inserting joists in the crossbeams, and laying down loose boards for a floor, except for a space about nine feet over the rostrum. A plank ladder outside, led to a door in the gable. This building was situated a short distance south of the present home of Emery Bierce. The door handle was made by



First Meeting House, built in 1769.

David Austin, upon it he placed his initials "D. A." and date 1769. This handle is now deposited with the Winchester Historical Society. The Congregational Church was formed October 30, 1771, with fourteen members. A "Sabba day" house was built a short distance below the church building. This small edifice had a huge fireplace located in one end, and was used as a place for the attendants on divine worship to warm themselves and replenish the

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supply of coals in their "foot stoves," there being no warmth in the church, except the fierce invectives of Parson Knapp against sin and the Devil. For seventeen years our fathers worshiped in this building. (I wonder how large a congregation would have attended, from the ease loving generation of to-day !)

It is evident that the "folks at the Center," were of a progressive, as well as of an aggressive nature.

I find that on "Dec. ye 22 A. D. 1774," a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society was called, among other things, "to see if the Society would petition the General Assembly to grant a tax, to build a meeting house in said Winchester."

This was only five years after the erection of the house they were then using. The matter remained under consideration from year to year, without agreement until 1783. Col. Ozias Brownson was then sent to the County Court convened at Litchfield "to pray" that a committee might be sent to "pitch the stakes," for a meeting house at Winchester. This was done; and the site selected, as near as can be ascertained, was at a point a little south of the present residence of Mr. Andrew L. Johnson. This selection did not prove satisfactory. Col. Brownson was again sent to the County Court to procure another committee to "pitch the stakes," and Col. Aaron Austin, Capt. Noah Kellogg and Mr. Levi Watson, all of New Hartford, the next town east, were appointed a "committee to fix a place to build a meeting house." "The Committee" duly met and "pitched the stakes" on a portion of the land of Dr. Josiah Avered or Everett (as it is now spelled) then a practising physician at Winchester Center.

On October 11th, 1785, Dr. Josiah Everitt deeded to the First Ecclesiastical Society of Winchester, for the sum of 1£, 16s, and 3d, lawful money, a certain piece of land, containing 56½ rods, "to build a meeting house on, for divine worship, and for a suitable green around the same."

The line started at a "stake and stones" near a willow tree in the corner of his door yard, and ran easterly, to the north and south highway, then about eleven rods along the north and south highway to the southeast corner of his lot, and from thence to the first mentioned corner.

December ye 22 A.D. 1774 Advertisement
 that they attend a Society meeting at the meeting house
 of the Society of Winchester at 10 o'clock on Tuesday the 27th inst.
 for the purpose of choosing a moderator for said meeting
 and to vote on a paper for said meeting
 to be read to be if the Society should petition to the
 house in said Winchester and any other business
 proper for said meeting
 Attest
 Peter Corbin
 Benjamin Hurd
 Secretary and Moderator
 Society Committee

Call of Meeting Dec. ye 27 A. D. 1774

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In this manner, and for the above purpose, the Winchester Center Green, came into being. The "North and South" highway so called, ran close in front of the tavern then kept by Roman Fyler, running northward, then turning eastward up the hill, past the John McAlpine residence, to the corner where the house of the Rev. Joshua Knapp was located, past the home of Eliphaz Alvord, the first Town Clerk, by "Sucker Brook University" and on toward "Gret Pond."

The matter of location was not settled yet by any means, although the land had been purchased.

"Danbury Quarter," situated in the northwest corner of the town, and settled by a colony from Danbury, Conn., thought, owing to their thickly populated district, that they were entitled to the "meeting house." Immediately a controversy arose. "Arguments were rubbed out in wash tubs, invectives strung on clothes lines, and epithets were churned in with the butter," until reaching the white heat of bitterness, it was decided to put the matter to vote, and cool off the heated atmosphere. The vote reads, "to erect the meeting house on Dr. Josiah Everett's land, as agreed to, by the *Major* part of this Society, convened in Society's meeting." It was also voted, to clinch the matter, "to build the meeting house near the crotch of the roads by Mr. Hurlbut's."

The result proved a victory for the "Center" people by six votes.

It was evident though, that a church member, (as well as a woman) convinced against his will, was of the same opinion still. The Danburyites became so disgusted with the whole proceeding, that they left their homes in a body (August, 1797) and started westward to pastures new, traveling in wagons drawn by oxen. After consuming two weeks in the journey, bound to have a "Center," and a Green of their own, they founded Vernon Center, N. Y. "The first settlers on Baschard's Patent were the following persons: Rev. Publius Bogue, Deacons Hills and Bronson, Samuel Wetmore, David Bronson, Levi Bronson, Seth Holmes, Anson Stone, Asahel Gridley, Heman Smith, Eliphaz Bissell, Adonijah Foot, Stephen Goodwin, Seth Hills, Eli Frisbie, James De Votie, John De Votie, Samuel Austin, Ezra Stanard, Matthew Griswold, Joseph Frisbie, David Alvord, Levi Thrall, Asahel Wilcox, Russell Church, Abijah P.

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Bronson, Thomas Spencer, Stephen Carter, Benjamin Carter, Levi Marshall, Seth Marshall, Harvey Marshall, David Tuttle, a Mr. Bush, a Mr. McEwen, Huet Hills, Asahel Wilcoxson, and Elijah Webber. These were nearly all from the towns of Winchester and Torrington, Conn. The company laid out a town plot in a parallelogram of six acres, which is now known as Vernon Center. Around the Green, the lots contained one acre each, and a number of the settlers located upon them. "All protestant religious denominations, were granted the right to erect houses of worship around this Green."

The feeling of dissension was so deep seated, that the Pastor, Rev. Publius Vergilius Booge also became imbued, and located with them, as the record above shows.

The "Center" people, "enthused" by their victory, and recognizing the Hand of Providence in this, as in his other dealings with them, erected a commodious church, the next year 1786, near the center of the Green.

Building then was not the easy matter of to-day. Oct. 14, 1785, it was voted "to raise one shilling on the pound of the list of Aug. 1785, for purpose of building a meeting house, to be paid in good Pine boards, or Whitewood clapboards, or Neat Cattle, or Labour, or good Pine Shingles. The Boards and Shingles to be delivered by ye 10th day of June next. What is not paid by said 10th of June, to be paid in Beef Cattle by ye 10th day of October next, and ye above articles to be delivered at ye Meeting House spot."

On the 12th of December, the same year, it was voted, "to proceed to build ye meeting house, cover and close it, and lay ye floor by ye 1st day of October next." It is evident that Boards and Beef Cattle, were supplied for the necessary covering, and floors. For on the 29th of June 1786, it was voted, "to raise 3d on the pound, of the list of August 1785, to enable ye Meeting House committee to procure glass, and nails, for ye Meeting House. Said rate of 3d on the pound, to be paid in Beef Cattle or Pork, or Flaxseed, or one quarter of it, in Butter and Cheese. Ye Butter and Cheese, to be delivered by ye 15th day of October next, ye Beef Cattle, by ye 15th day of October next, and ye Pork, by ye first of January next, and ye Flaxseed, by ye 15th day of October next. —If any person shall pay his rate in cash, by ye first day of October next, he shall

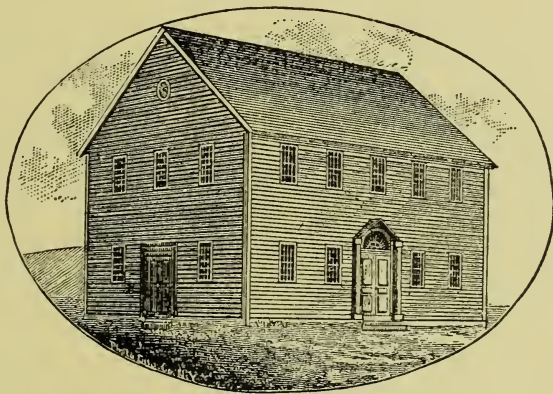
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be allowed a deduction of one tenth part of ye same. The above mentioned articles of Provision to be delivered at ye home of Mr. Samuel Hurlbut, by ye times above prefixed."

These are a sample of the votes, and an evidence of the ways and means used, in building a church in New England, in those days of struggle, and poverty.

The building was duly erected, but in some cases, the taxes against the people were found to be too heavy, and were abated.

Nov. 19, 1787, it was voted "to abate the rate against Benajah Smith, on said Smith's producing a certificate from ye church of England, that he has paid ye minister of said church." (Benajah was not a believer in double taxation.) The church edifice was a



Second Meeting House, built in 1785.

commodious one for those days, being of two stories in height, painted white, and stood about the center of the Green. The roof was steep, for shingles were "rived out," in those days by hand and must last. The gables with an egg shaped window in each, faced east and west. There were two rows of windows, with 40 glass in each, 6" x 8" in size. The top row of windows, extended above the gallery floor, and the lower row, gave light to the main body of the building. A gallery extended around three sides of the inside of the church, the east, south, and west sides, and the pulpit was enclosed high up in the air, with a narrow staircase leading up to it, while

almost in the ridge there hovered over it, a huge square "sounding board," constructed of pine, built hollow, with an opening in the back side of it. The pulpit was decorated with wooden imitations of vines and grapes, showing an unconscious leaning of the Puritan minds of the Old Society toward Baalism. In front of the pulpit, and attached by a hinge, was a swing table supported by one leg, which was used from time to time at the celebration of the communion. There were three entrance doors, with a low flight of steps at each, a flat stone forming the top step, on the east, west, and south sides respectively, with an aisle leading from each. I say three entrance doors, but I am of the opinion that the eastern door was rather for exit, as it opened toward the tavern, and repeated entries on the records, tell of calling the meeting to order in the meeting house, and then adjourning in *one minute* to the tavern. The reason for which I leave to your imagination.

The pews, were great square high boxes, the top of which came nearly to a person's shoulder. On top of this was a railing about eight inches higher, supported by little posts set about six inches apart. A board seat, ran around the inside of each pew, while a door opening from the aisle, shut in the unruly youngsters. There was a block of six pews, on each side of the center aisle, while under the galleries, and on each side of the doors, and on each side of the pulpit, were three pews, except in the southeast, and southwest corners, where they were replaced by stairways leading to the galleries.

There was no fireplace, or chimney, in the building; but coals for the foot stoves, as well as other warmth, was supplied from the Inn, across the way. This manner of heating continued for many years. But Deacon Loomis suffering either from cold feet, or pangs of conscience, installed a huge box stove in one of the aisles, near the south end, running a stove pipe nearly across that end, to the southeast corner, where a hole was cut in the siding, and the pipe thrust through. The records make note of this in 1833.

The assignment of seats was made according to social position, wealth, and piety. It is interesting to note in the arrangement of seatings, in the pews, to individuals, that from three to eight families, were assigned to one pew. On the right of the pulpit, facing

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the audience, a pew was "set off" to the families of the Minister, and Deacons, together. The west gallery was also divided into pews, but the east side was furnished with board seats in rows, one above another, while the south gallery was devoted to the singers. The women entered by the west stairway, and the men by the eastern flight.

No instrument of music was allowed in the church for many years, but after much discussion and prayer over both man and fiddle, Deacon Lorrain Loomis was allowed to play a Bass Viol for a few services. But it was a "Godless Thing," and "an invention of the Devil!" And he was compelled to stop playing, and worship in the way the Fathers had. He still persisted, and argued, and later, after fully proving his piety, and especially that of the fiddle, was allowed to play again, and continued so to do, for many years.

The tithingman, with his rod of office, sat in the gallery. An elderly lady with whom I talked very recently described to me, his eagle eye, and the awful look and frown that he cast over the whole assemblage. "But in spite of it all," the boys were accustomed, during the two sermons (which were eternally long, as one man described them to me) to cut the names of their prettiest girls on the seats of the gallery pews, until the benches were literally whittled away. This was one of the strong arguments for building the present edifice. Many a "lark was cut up," during the intermission while they were eating their lunches in these same pews. The galleries were free to the public, and a few back pews below. One pew below and one in the gallery were reserved for colored people. The usual plan was to tax and assign the sittings, but in 1817, the plan was tried, of making free seats for one year. Not finding this a success, the Society went back to the old plan the following year.

The horse sheds stood directly in front of the present residence of Edward H. Bronson, the old "Bronson homestead." People came to church in those days, in all kinds of vehicles, as well as by horseback and pillion. But most of the boys came barefoot. Erastus Hurlbut carried his family in a lumber box wagon, painted green. Sally Miner rode in a two wheeled chaise, coming from where Herbert V. Johnson now lives. Daniel Murray had a

wagon with a spring seat, to transport his family in. Squire Beebe's family, living at the Pettibone house, always walked. But Amasa Wade, Sr., rode in style, the envy of all admirers. He came in a Royal coach, the only one ever seen in Winchester. It was made in London in 1703 for George III, when he was Prince of Wales, and brought over to this country by General Burgoyne for his personal use. After his surrender, it was sold to Major Wade, an uncle of Amasa Wade, and an officer on General Gates' staff. The Major brought it to Winchester, where it was used by Amasa Wade, Sr., Amasa Wade, Jr., and Heman his son, for many years, to transport the families to church. There was many a fierce fight among the boys and girls for the privilege of sitting as Royalty, in this coach, during the intermissions between services. The vehicle was not driven under the shed with common wagons, but stood with a royal dignity all its own, on pleasant days, outside in solitary grandeur, displaying its emblazoned sides and coat of arms, to the admiring populace. At other times it was kept in a shed by itself at "Hurlbut's store."

"The Meeting House," stood exactly in the Center of the Green. On the eastern border and across the street, from the tavern, stood the Whipping Post. This Whipping Post was a great incentive to piety, and might well be considered in these days of Sunday freedom. At one time an employee of Squire Hurlbut's took it into his head to run away with some of his employer's clothing, etc. He was pursued, brought back, tried on a grand juror's complaint, found guilty and sentenced to be publicly whipped at the post. The sentence was duly executed on Saturday. On Sunday, with sore back and sorer conscience, though not a church member, he attended public service in the church, and occupied a prominent seat. At the close of the sermon, he arose, and the Rev. Father Marsh read his confession, asking pardon of the church and community, and that he might be restored to public confidence, and tradition has it that he was good, forever afterward.

Another delinquent who suffered at this same post, for sins of commission, after being whipped, humbly thanked the Justice and Constable—the Justice, for not humiliating him by committing him to the stocks, and the Constable, for showing so kind and tender a

heart in washing his back with good *New England Rum*, instead of just plain wet water, after his punishment. A glad surprise evidently to his *external* body and considered a great extravagance.

The stocks stood south of, and in front of the church, about opposite the present residence of Mr. Andrew L. Johnson, the old "Hurlbut Homestead," and were another strong argument for piety. They were about six feet long, and the planks were six inches thick, and eight inches wide, as described to me by a gentleman who remembered them well in his boyhood days. They were looked upon with horror, and as an engine of the Evil One. The lower plank lay near the ground, mortised at one end into a post, and firmly fastened to the ground at the other. The upper plank was attached to the post at one end by a heavy hinge, bringing the lower edge of one in contact with the upper edge of the other, and they were held together, by a hasp and padlock at the other ends. Four holes were cut in one half of each plank, large enough to insert the ankles of the sinner, when the stocks were open,

The boys made wide circles toward that haven of refuge, the church, when passing by this evil thing.

Up to 1793, the Green was ornamented with chestnut stumps, among which the church members were trained to walk, in the straight and narrow way. At this time a "General Training" was ordered here. A great event, that was held in spring and fall, in different portions of the County. Enthusiasm arose! The Center must shine: Those stumps must come out, for the soldiers were coming to drill! The tavern was near, and there must be no excuse for stumbling! So out they came, split, and drawn out by piece meal with teams of oxen and chains. The holes were filled up and leveled. Fences in every direction were removed. Tables were set in Dr. Everett's orchard, where the Bronson homestead now stands. The ladies came arrayed in silks, satins, damasks, and changeable lutestrings, of all colors. These were robes not to be worn every day, or even once a week, and were of a far richer material than those flaunted by our modern butterfly belles. These grandmothers of ours were very human. Standing together, across the road from the Green, near General Hurlbut's, out of range of the enthusiasm of some luckless soldier's gun, they added a picture of color, and beauty, to the scene.

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Col. Ozias Brownson, (my great grandfather) commanded the regiment, and borrowed of Dr. Everett's daughter her black ostrich plume to wear in his cocked hat and make his appearance more soldier like and impressive.

To commence proceedings properly, he formed the regiment in a hollow square, and then searched in vain for a minister to open the day with prayer. Rising to the occasion, the Colonel removed his plumed hat, and still sitting upon his horse said, "I will pray!" And so he did, with great solemnity. After the training exercises, good old fashioned base ball was played upon the Green. If perchance a glass was broken in the meeting house, a subscription of twenty-five cents was raised on the spot to replace it. Wrestling, foot races, leaping, and pulling on the rope, were practised. In September was "General Training" day. At first peep of day, the Captain, whenever he lived near the Green, or in "Hall Meadow," was awakened by the discharge of an old "Queens Arms" under his window, by some admirer of the officer—and his cider brandy. The Captain was supposed to respond to such a compliment, and then invite the company, whether one or a dozen, to come in and "take suthin." At nine o'clock the Company roll was called, the line formed, and then the officers were chosen. Whoever accepted an office, and there were few that refused, even if it was only for second corporal, was expected to make a speech, giving thanks to the Company for the honor conferred, and promising to perform his whole duty, if called to war, against the Mother Country.

It was customary for those who had been officers and soldiers in the then late war, to ride on horseback single file, past the train band, take off their hats, and bow to the Company, who returned what was called the "General Salute." After election, marching, drilling, and inspection followed; then came the dinner, which was a grand affair, and served by the ladies. On all occasions, gingerbread and new cider, were plentifully served, (I have the Colonel's table which he used for this occasion in my possession.) Water-melons, and Oysters, a great dainty, were also furnished in season. Money was scarce, but this day was an exception, and extravagance reigned. Some of the boys spent as much as fifteen cents in one

day, and the reckless men, even as high as twenty-five cents, but not often. Pitching cents, and throwing the yoke, were always practised on such occasions. After dinner, the company were called into line again, and were put through unique and wonderful evolutions, until sunset, when they were dismissed, and returned to their homes proud, tired, and happy. Sure that the country was safe!

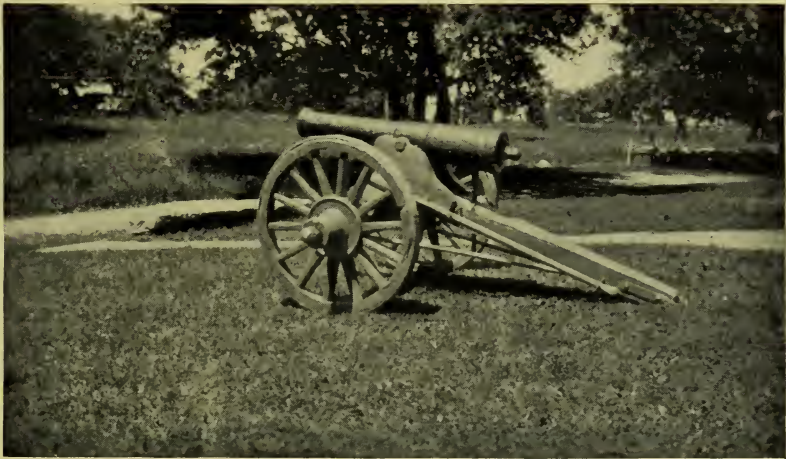
Fourth of July was also celebrated with much ceremony, and great zeal. We have an account of one that Mr. John Boyd attended in 1811 when a boy of twelve years old. A long booth of green boughs stood on the Green in front of the Tavern and shaded a table of equal length, loaded with baked beef and mutton, roasted pigs, baked Indian puddings, and pies of every variety. The sayings and doings of the occasion were fully reported in the Connecticut Courant, of the following week.

The procession was escorted into the meeting house by Captain Bunnell's full militia company. The singing was led by Major Lloyd Andrews, the prayer offered by Rev. Ammi Ruhami Robbins of Norfolk. An able and brilliant oration pronounced by Rev. Chauncey Lee of Colebrook, and the table was presided over by Captain Abial Loomis of Winchester. Then followed the toasts, fragrant with sentimental patriotism, and Malaga wine, each followed by a volley of musketry and the asthmatic cough of a cast iron four-pounder field piece, mounted on cart wheels, which had been brought from Litchfield for the occasion. No cannon having ever before been fired in the peaceful town. Here you have a picture of a genuine 4th of July celebration, of one hundred years ago, on this same glorious Green.

The cannon referred to was a trophy of the old French and Indian or Revolutionary War, and has had a varied history. It never went back to Litchfield, but was purchased of its former owner, by Uncle Richard Coit. It was afterward sold in Winsted where it vomited its war defiance from Cobble Hill, Street Hill, and other places, on all festive occasions. It was brought into service to defend the liberty pole of the East Village Park against the assaults of the old Federalists during the war of 1812, and at a later period, to break up meetings of the pestilent Abolitionists. Some 70 years ago three lively matrons, living at the "East Village" Hotel, out

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of patience with the noisy thing which had been fired off in front of the house for half of the night, and had been left on the ground, contrived to roll it into the garden where they dug a grave and buried it. The gun was missing for a dozen years, when the secret of its burial place leaked out. It was exhumed, and did service for both political parties until the Buchanan campaign, during which the Republicans again secretly buried it, with the intention of resurrecting it for use in the event of Fremont's election. The Democrats discovered its grave in season to secure it for their



The Historic Cannon

use, when the returns came in, showing the election of the "Old Public Functionary." They used it most savagely in front of the Winsted Herald building, breaking in the windows, and smashing things generally. It was soon after taken by the Fremont men and thrown into the Clifton Mill pond, where it remained until midwinter, when a West Village saloon-keeper and his patriotic customers turned out one cold night and made diligent search up and down the cold stream, until they found and transferred it to a safe hiding place, where it was kept ready for renewed use in the spring, to celebrate the election of General Pratt for Governor. His opponent was elected and the gun was not wanted. It was

liable to be discovered in its hiding place, so the party in possession again buried it in an unknown grave where (Mr. Boyd says, the above description being his) "it is said to remain until this day."

I am happy to say though, that the old warrior is very much alive, having recently come to life again, and is in the possession of the Winchester Historical Society. We hope that it will soon be properly mounted, and placed in our rooms to tell to posterity the silent story of its varied life.

A flag pole was erected on the western side of the church. It was a tall and heavy one, being made from two pieces and spliced together. The ground still shows plainly where it was installed. It was erected to celebrate the election of Martin Van Buren, for President. I have in my possession the original call for the election to take place in this church, issued by Elias Rowley, Constable in 1836.

The old meeting house was, like the years, passing on, and in 1840 it was decided to build a new church edifice. "Squire" Isaac Bronson, whose residence was nearly back of the church, and who had been greatly annoyed by that fact, leased to the Society the site of the present building, with the agreement that nothing should ever be erected again in front of his house, upon the Green. He in turn agreeing to allow them the right of passage from the church mentioned, in front of his house, and also that he would not build within four rods of the church, requiring the same agreement of the Ecclesiastical Society. Much more could be said about the "Green" and the good times within its borders, the spelling matches, in the old church, the elections, held there every year, the school exhibitions, and dramatic plays,—but time forbids. The present church was erected in 1841, and was partially built from the timbers of the old one. When it was finished, before the seats were installed, it was dedicated by a theatrical performance entitled "The Robber's Bride." One of the actors, (the villain of the play) an old gentleman who has now gone to his reward, related to me the story. The play was of a highly melodramatic nature. At the climax, he, the villain, was to stab the heroine, and bride, (one of the influential young ladies of the village) to save her from being torn from his arms. Realizing then, as now, that scenes true to

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life, must be given to be effective, they obtained a pig's bladder, that had been dried, and prepared for a foot ball, by some of the little boys. This was filled nearly full with beet juice. They then prepared a knife with a long blade, but in which the blade would disappear nearly its whole length into the handle when used with a striking blow. The young lady placed the bladder within the bosom



Third Meeting House, built 1841

of her dress, and at the proper moment, the villain stabbed her with his long knife, uttering at the same time a terrible yell. The scene was so realistic, the blood flowed so profusely, and the lady died so gracefully, that many in the audience saw real life indeed, and fainted away.

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Thus the present church was dedicated, which may account for some of the theatrical tendencies of the present generation in the "Old Society."

In 1846 the stately elms, that so beautify our Green, were planted through the efforts of the Rev. James H. Dill, then pastor of the church with Father Marsh, and they are an object lesson to others to do likewise.

From 1861 to 1865 the church was the center of activity, where the ladies met from day to day, to make uniforms, prepare lint and bandages, and other comforts for the brave soldiers, at the front. Here met the women of the Center, one day in summer to march forth with other women, not to battle, but to pick blackberries. Gail Borden, the inventor of preservation of milk by condensation, who, together with my Father was manufacturing condensed milk in Winsted, offered to make into condensed jam, for the soldiers, free of charge, all the blackberries the women would pick in one day, and 95 bushels were brought to the factory that evening, as a result of the day's work. The label that the gentlemen placed upon the cans read as follows: "Borden's Condensed Blackberry Juice, process patented, 22nd July 1862. From The Loyal League of the women of Colebrook, and the Loyal women and children of Winchester, Wolcottville and Norfolk and others:—For the Sick Soldiers of the Union Army."

In my own day I have seen the one hundredth and the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversaries of town and church, celebrated on this same Green. Many a famous wicket ball, and base ball battle, has been fought out within its borders. Base ball! Not the automatic machine gun game, of to-day, but real old fashioned base ball, when every one who played was an all around athlete, where to be a good player, one must not only be able to bat, but to run, and *dodge*. For a rule prevailed, that gave the right to any player holding the ball, to throw it at the man running the bases, and "put him out," by hitting him, and many a man was "put out" of the run, and the game. I have seen games played upon the Green, where a lead of 15 or 20 runs in an inning, was nothing to be worried over, the result of one battle, being 120 runs to 84, and

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that of another 80 to 38, (and only nine men on a side either.) Sunday School picnics and celebrations, likewise have been enjoyed upon its grassy bosom.

Early in my boyhood days, one bright morning I saw it literally covered, with thousands of wild passenger pigeons, that had alighted there for rest, and food.

The history, and the life of the Green continues, increasing in interest and mystery, as the years go by.

Come up on the hill top some August evening, when the moon is at the full, the air is still, and the town in slumber, when not a sound can be heard, except the murmur of the leaves in the whispering trees, and the patter of gentle footsteps, as the fairies dance upon the Green. Sit beneath the shadow of the aged elms! Look steadily at the dear old Meeting House, with its square tower on tower, upheld by white Doric pillars, with its white sides, glistening in the moonlight, and imaging all sorts of delicious fancies. As the mystic hour of twelve approaches, and the shadows dance back and forth upon the gleaming face of the "old meeting house," there will arise before you, the ghosts of long ago, and you will live over with me, the life of a "NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE GREEN."

COPY OF THE ORIGINAL MSS. FOR "GENERAL
TRAINING" AUGUST 22d, 1793.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS FOR THE 25TH REG'T.

A Review of Inspection of the 25th Reg't. of Connecticut Militia is ordered and directed to be on the 26th day of Septem'r next. You are therefore ordered to bring on the Company under your command to be ready to form with the Reg't on the Parade agreed upon by the officers of the Reg't & appointed by the Commandant, in the North part of New Hartford near Mr. Eliphalet Austin's by half an hour after ten o'clock in the morning of sd Day precisely, as an inspection of the Reg't is to begin in one hour precisely after our pradeing hour it is required that punctuallity be observed in the strictest manner Abstract from general orders received from Maj. Trasey.

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you will remark in the blanks of inspection return transmitted to you there are no columns for screw drivers and wormes for Serg't & Corporals; you will therefore add the columns for Cartridges and that for flints and make additions in the captions that both annual & Inspection Returns of Companies, as they will contain a statement of Companies on the day of Reviews, must bare date and be delivered to the Adjutant that day, the utmost accuracy and punctuality is expected relative to the whole system of Returns. You will immediately forward to each Commander of a Comp'y in your Reg't 2 Comp'y inspection blanks, which officers to make out according to his form a true Return of His respective Company as it is on the days of Reviews, putting down every mans name and Rank that is or ought by Law to be inrolled in his Company with their arms, wantages &c and in case of absence on that day Add (absent) with the further addition of (sick, lame) or on a journey) or any other Contingency. occasioning his absence that is known to such officer and as he is provided with duplicates he is to fill up both exactly alike and sign them one for the Adjutant and the other for me to assist me in the inspection, to be ready for me when I call for it. before the day of Reviews every Commander of a Comp'y will have the Names &c entered in both his blanks and as the Law supposes every such officer to know not only his men but the exact state of their arms and accoutrements &c every four weeks the Returns can be nearly finished on the day before the reviews and in the hour after parading & before Inspection he will have full time to note every alteration of arms &c and to note absences &c. each Commander of a Company must place his men in parade in the same order they stand on his Inspection Returns Beginning on the Right in front with the first man then present the next in the rear and so on alternately. as this review of inspection is new to us all it is thought expedient that you add to your Regimental orders for a review in very explicit terms that every Commiss'nd officer must come on parade with Expontoon & sword. Each Serg't and Corp'l Besides the arms &c hereafter described for a private must have a screw driver & worm and each private a gun and Bagonett & Bagonet belt, Cartridge box containing 24 Cartridges properly made with sufficiency of good powder & a ball in each fitting the Bore of his gun, one flint in his gun & 2 spare ones, a knapsack, priming wire and brush. As to dress ornaments &c The commissioned officers well know the legal uniform & must expect to comply therewith precisely, the privates will always follow the unanimous example of their officers The Company Standards or Colours will not be wanted as Regimental Colours only will be used & must be provided by the field officers, but the Company officers must by Law provide drums and fifes for their respective companies. The Company officers must be reminded that its a part of their duty as well as every other rank & grade of officers to furnish themselves with the Rules of Discipline established by Congress, 22 of March, 1779. It can hardly be necessary to inform you that the Rules laid down in Baron Stubbs for Reviews of Inspection will be strictly observed in every particular, excepting Ensigns

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with each Colour in front of companies. particular care must be taken by the company officers that no mans piece be loaded when he comes on to inspection parade, and you are to inforce it in your Regimental orders on both officers and soldiers in the most decided manner, that an acerate and punctual compliance with the Laws in all respects is indispensible and that every failure will meet with reprehension and severity, and that each Corp'l must appear in dress arms & equipage in such manner as to do Honor to the Institution as is definged. The Colonel expects that the foregoing General orders will be very critically complied with. He hopes likewise to see a spirit of concilation prevade the Whole Reg't, both officers & soldiers & hopes they will and enjoins it that they dress in the uneform agreed upon by the general officers in May last and established by the Captain Giniral.—Viz. Commiss'd officers to weare the uneform heretofore agreed upon by the officers of the Reg't. with the addition of a white eppaulet to the commissioned soldiers dress, with a black ribbon and feather in there Hats. Serg't to ware Blue coots faced with read the same as commissioners, but to be distinguished by a white worsted knot on each shoulder. Corporals and privates to ware white froks & overalls all the troops to ware Black Cockaids. the Commanding officers of Companies are ordered to make a return of their respective Companies conformable to the forms herewith transmitted to be handed to the Adjutant the day of the Review with the Names of the officers their rank & date of their commisons inserted at the bottom' The Colonel expects that the officers see that the men appear with pieces clean & Bright, Bright, Bright. likewise that they have good musick and incourage a soldierlike appearance & good order & strict attention especially when under arms that may merit not only the respect of the Citizins & spectators and git lasting Honour to themselves, likewise that the officers take particular Care that no gun be looded when they come on to the Insepction parade.

Lieut. Phineas Cadwell is appointed Adjutant,

Mr. Jesse Hills appointed qr Master

Mr. Uriel Holmes appointed pay Master

(Joseph Elmor Serg't

Rev'd Publius V. Booge appointed Chaplain,

(Doctor Wilcox, Surgen

Gorge Hopkins appointed Serg't Major,

Chas. Gilmore Drum Major

Joseph Gilbert Fife Major to the 25th Reg't and they are to be obayed as such.

N. B. The Musick to wear Red Coats faced with Blue lind with white trimed with blue livery lace & white under dress, white Buttons & blue worsted knots on each shoulder.

Given under my Hand at Winchester this 22nd day of August, 1793.

Captain Samuel Hurlbut

Commanding the 4th Company :

25th Reg't.

Ozias Brownson, Lt. Col. Comd't

25th Reg't.

